

# **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

*Southwest Virginia Community College*

**Grantee:** Southwest Virginia Community College

**Industry Focus:** Construction

**Key Partners:** Virginia Workforce Network Area One; Bluestone Regional Business and Technology Center; Clinch Valley Community Action Agency; Southwest Virginia Tech Prep Consortium; Old Dominion University; Associated General Contractors of Virginia; Southwest Virginia Small Business Development Center; Little Ten Redevelopment and Housing Authorities of Southwest Virginia; Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission; Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority; Appalachian Detention Center; Virginia Wilderness Institute; the National Association of Women in Construction and several regional businesses

**Grant Amount:** \$1,792,729

**Leveraged Amount:** \$449,843

**Location of Grant Activities:** Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell counties, Virginia

**Challenge:** Growth in Southwest Virginia's construction industry is outpacing the supply of workers, with planned major commercial projects that will also increase the need for housing. Retirements, a lack of educational capacity to provide training, and a lack of interest in construction among young adults contribute to the regional workforce shortage. There is also a large population of juvenile/adult detainees in the region.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The Construction Trades Academy will address the growing regional shortage of trained workers in the industry. Three existing trades programs in welding, electrical and HVAC will be reconfigured, and three new certificate programs in masonry, carpentry and plumbing will be developed. All programs will be modeled on the Home Builders Institute curriculum. A pre-apprenticeship program and new certificate programs in construction supervision and entrepreneurship also will be offered. The project will emphasize recruiting, enrolling, and retaining special population students and the region's incarcerated individuals. The project will conduct an outreach campaign to build awareness of career ladders at local high schools.

## **Projected Outcomes:**

- 434 students will enroll in training activities, 369 students will obtain a degree or certificate, and 332 will enter the workforce
- 48 incumbent workers will receive advanced training as construction supervisors or entrepreneurs, 16 will receive certificates, and four will start their own businesses
- 164 high school students will participate in pre-apprenticeship programs
- A case study on lessons learned from In-Prison Vocational Programs will be documented